

PHOTO ID CARDS A FAILURE?

Recent studies into the effectiveness of photo credit-cards have cast doubt over their ability to cut fraud. Dr Richard Kemp, of the Department of Psychology at Westminster University, London, organised an experiment involving a London supermarket to test the cards in 'the real world'.

The supermarket was staffed by six people who were all warned to be on the lookout for fraudulent credit cards.

Dr Kemp arranged for 44 of his students to pose as shoppers and test the staff's ability to spot photo-card misuse. Each student was armed with four cards. One showed the student as they were, one showed the student wearing make-up, one showed an individual who vaguely resembled the student, and the last card depicted someone who looked nothing like the bearer.

The results of Dr Kemp's supermarket experiment proved very interesting. In all, the majority of fraudulent cards were accepted. Amazingly, 35 per cent of the cards bearing a photograph of someone completely different from the student were accepted. A massive 64 per cent of cards bearing a similar individual were also accepted. And 14 per cent of cards bearing a true likeness of the student were rejected.

A few British banks are already offering customers the opportunity to have their photograph etched onto their cards. They claim a reduction in fraud has resulted from this. Dr Kemp's findings would seem to contradict this belief. Dr Nicky Towell,



one of Dr Kemp's researchers, said, "There is a widely held assumption that photo credit-cards are a cheap and effective way of stopping fraud. But this is not the case."

(Source: *The Mouse Monitor*, March 1996)

THERMOGRAMS: YOUR HOT NEW ID SYSTEM

Biometry is the science of statistical analysis through biological investigation. This new science is now coming into its own as a highly effective identification method in the continually escalating battle against crime. One must ask though, what are the implications regarding privacy?

Latest on the list of biometric achievements is the Thermogram. Scientists have found that by taking pictures of a face using infra-red cameras, a unique heat-dis-

tribution pattern is seen. The different densities of bone, skin, fat and blood vessels all contribute to an individual's personal 'heat signature'. Once a picture is taken of a face, its thermal image can be matched with astonishing accuracy against a database of pre-recorded thermograms. The system is so accurate that it can tell identical twins apart. In addition, the system cannot be fooled by cosmetic surgery or disguises, including facial hair.

The most disturbing thing about this new system is its invisibility. Other biometric systems such as retinal scans and palm scanners require subject cooperation and intrusive analysis. The thermogram merely requires a camera to be pointing in your direction. Your face could be picked from a crowd of thousands within seconds and you wouldn't even know you were being watched.

Many people are hailing thermography as spectacular for precisely the reasons that make it unacceptable. There are those who liken intrusive identification methods to criminal proceedings. At least you know where you stand when a computer laser-scans your eyes. At least you are aware of being observed.

Another biometric wonder that we can look forward to is the artificial nose. This device chemically analyses the unique combination of substances excreted from the skin of people. It essentially sniffs them out. One 'legitimate' use for this technology might be to keep track of known shoplifters. Their smell could be recorded on computer and all shops would have electronic noses at the entrance. Upon entering, the hapless shoplifter would find himself subject to the closest scrutiny as the shop computer informs staff of his criminal past. But what if electronic noses, linked to a worldwide computer network, were installed at border crossings?

Unlike fingerprinting and other intrusive ID methods, the disturbing thing about biometry is that templates can be acquired without suspect knowledge. Your thermogram or aroma-print could be held on file and you wouldn't even know it. You wouldn't know it had been taken, let alone stored.

(Source: *The Mouse Monitor*, March 1996)



Somerville

HIGHER LEUKAEMIA RATES AMONG THOSE LIVING NEAR TV TOWERS

According to a report just released, children living in three Sydney districts close to television towers have a 60 per cent higher rate of childhood leukaemia than children in adjacent areas.

Dr Bruce Hocking, a consultant in occupational medicine and former Chief Medical Officer for Telecom Australia (now renamed Telstra), analysed data from the NSW Cancer Registry on cancer incidences between 1972 and 1990 and found 100 cases of childhood leukemia and just under 40 deaths. Dr Hocking presented his findings at the Royal Australasian College of Physicians' Annual Scientific Meeting in Canberra.

In 1987, a similar study identified higher rates of cancer among those living near radio and TV broadcast towers in Honolulu, Hawaii. However, this finding was never followed up. Dr Bruce Anderson and Alden Henderson of the Hawaii Department of Health had found higher rates of cancer and leukaemia in census tracts with broadcast towers. An RF/MW survey by the Environmental Protection Agency had earlier shown that the city of Honolulu had the highest radiation levels of any US urban area. Dr William Morton of the University of Oregon's Health Sciences Center in Portland had found parallel trends in his study of cancer and broadcast radiation in Portland.

(Sources: *The Australian*, 10 May 1996; *Microwave News*, Nov/Dec 1995)

THE LOOTING OF AMERICA

In 1989, police stopped 49-year-old Ethel Hylton at Houston's Hobby Airport and told her she was under arrest because a drug-sniffing dog had scratched at her luggage. Agents searched her bags and strip-searched her, but they found no drugs. They did find \$39,110 in cash—money she had received from an insurance settlement, and her life savings accumulated through over 20 years of work as a hotel housekeeper and hospital janitor. Ethel Hylton completely documented where she had got the money and was never charged with a crime. But the police kept her money anyway. Nearly seven years later, she is still trying to get her money back.

Ethel Hylton is just one of a large and growing list of Americans—now numbering in the hundreds of thousands—who have been victimised by civil asset forfei-

ture. Under civil asset forfeiture, everything you own can be literally taken away even if you are never indicted, tried or convicted of a crime. Suspicion of offences, which, if proven in court, might result in a US\$200 fine or probation, is being used to justify seizure of tens or even hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of property.

How extensive are seizures in America today? In April 1990, *The Washington Post* reported that the US Marshals Service alone had an inventory of over US\$1.4 billion in seized assets, including over 30,000 cars, boats, homes and businesses. Federal and state agencies seizing property now include the FBI, the DEA, the US Marshals Service, the Coast Guard, the IRS, local police, the highway patrol, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the FDA and the Bureau of Land Management. Asset forfeiture is a growth industry. Seizures increased from US\$27 million in 1986 to over US\$644 million in 1991. In 1993, seizures exceeded US\$2 billion.

Under civil seizure, property, not an individual, is charged with an offence. Even if you are a totally innocent owner, the government can still confiscate your guilty property.

If government agents seize your property under civil asset forfeiture, you can forget about being innocent until proven guilty, due process of law, the right to an attorney or even the right to a trial.

All of those rights only exist if you are charged with a criminal offence—that is, an offence which could result in your imprisonment. If you (or your property) are accused of a civil offence (an offence which could not result in your imprisonment), the Supreme Court has ruled that

you have no presumption of innocence, no right to an attorney, and no protection from double jeopardy.

To get a trial, you have to post a non-refundable 'bond' of 10 per cent of the value of your property. You have to pay attorney fees—ranging from \$5,000 to over \$100,000—out of your own pocket. Money you pay your attorney is also subject to seizure (either before or after the trial) if the government alleges that those funds are tainted.

Every week, over 5,000 Americans are losing their cars, homes, bank accounts and businesses. Only three in 100 confiscation victims ever get a trial.

(Source: *A-albionic Research*, 17 July 1995)

WAS CIA MURDER BEHIND BREAK WITH LIBYA?

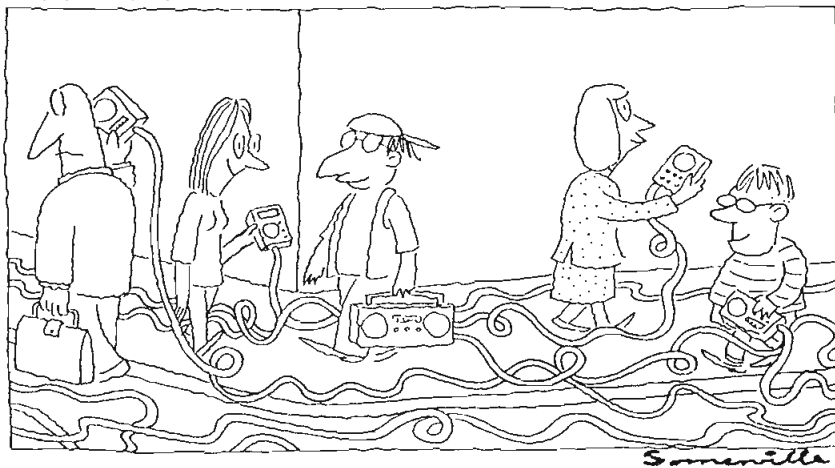
Britain broke diplomatic relations with Libya in 1984 after a British policewoman, Yvonne Fletcher, was shot and killed outside the Libyan Embassy in London during an anti-Qaddafi demonstration. The British Government and media immediately concluded that the shots had come from the Libyan Embassy.

Now a documentary, shown on Britain's Channel 4, says it could have been US intelligence services that killed Fletcher in order to get Britain to join Washington's campaign against Libya.

The program went to air on British TV on 10th April. The Libyan Foreign Ministry quickly sent an official letter to Britain, asking the government to consider re-establishing diplomatic relations.

(Source: *Workers World Service, Workers World*, 55 W. 17th St, NY, NY 10011, USA; via e-mail: ww@wwpublish.com)

CABLE RADIO



CANADIAN MEDICAL GESTAPO RAIDS NATURAL HEALTH CLINIC

Not to be outdone by their counterparts to the south, 'inspectors' from the Quebec College of Physicians and Surgeons (Q-COPS) raided the Opal Health Centre, a private holistic clinic in a rural part of Quebec, halfway between Montreal and Ottawa.

The raid actually occurred on 28 June 1995, and comprised three armed policemen and five inspectors from Q-COPS who seized natural remedies, patients' files and equipment.

The clinic, operated by an M.D., Dr J. Rancourt, and a naturopath, Dr I. von Winterfeldt-Schubert, offers many popular, natural therapies including homocopathy, Bach flower remedies, acupuncture, massage, nutrition, herbal remedies and electromagnetic treatments.

Dr Rancourt was given a deadline of 24 September 1995 to cease all natural treatments and terminate her association with the naturopath, Dr I. von Winterfeldt-Schubert. Failure to do so would result in the loss of her licence to practise medicine. There have been no reported complaints or evidence of harm to any of the patients at the clinic whatsoever.

The raid by Q-COPS is the result of the recently published book, *The Breuss Cancer Cure*. Dr Rancourt wrote the foreword for the book, which advocates the use

of juice-fasting in the treatment of cancer. She was ordered by Q-COPS to contact the publisher, Alive Books, and arrange to have the foreword withdrawn from the book. It appears that, in Quebec, physicians can be disciplined for publishing opinions that differ from mainstream medical opinion.

Dr Rancourt is not the first physician in Quebec to be disciplined for publishing unpopular opinions. Q-COPS is prosecuting Dr Guylaine Lanctôt because of what she wrote in her best-selling book, *The Medical Mafia*, in which she attacks the integrity of the pharmaceutical industry, the dangers of compulsory vaccinations and other cherished dogmas of medical orthodoxy. [See NEXUS 2#25 Reviews.]

Despite the fact that her book is well-documented and supported by hundreds of leading health experts around the world, the Q-COPS is bulldozing ahead with its assault on Dr Lanctôt's medical licence. According to published interviews, Dr Lanctôt has already declared personal bankruptcy and fears for her life.

(Source: *Townsend Letter for Doctors & Patients*, April 1996)

EUROPE FEARS ASTEROID APOCALYPSE

The Council of Europe wants a census made of several thousand asteroids orbiting close enough to Earth to wipe out the human race if there were a collision.

The Council's parliamentary assembly raised the alarm after hearing a report on the consequences of an encounter with an asteroid more than a kilometre in diameter.

The report, from Italian MP Luciano Lorenzi, reveals that when an object several kilometres across hits the Earth, "pri-

marily there is a massive explosion sufficient to fragment and partially vaporise both the projectile and the target".

A cloud of dust would shroud the whole planet in daytime darkness for several months, causing temperatures to plunge by several dozen degrees. That would be followed by global warming for a score of years, the report added.

The MPs of the 39-nation Council agreed there was a need for the estimated 2,000+ NEOs (near-Earth objects) to be listed.

(Sources: *The Sydney Morning Herald*; *Sunshine Coast Daily*, 3 April 1996)

FOOD DESTROYED TO KEEP PRICES HIGH

The European Union ordered the destruction of 2.5 million tonnes of fresh fruit and vegetables last year to keep prices for farmers artificially high.

The Sunday Times obtained figures in March this year, revealing that the EU paid farmers an estimated £500 million (AUD\$987.6m) for the food, which had to be of marketable quality before it could be accepted for destruction.

It was then dug into trenches while prices for fruit and vegetables soared in the shops.

The destruction of the 'surplus' produce is part of Europe's farm subsidy scheme, the Common Agricultural Policy, under which food prices are protected. The food was destroyed despite a pledge from the European Commission three years ago that it would curb costs and waste.

Growers can claim payments just below wholesale market rates for 14 fruits and vegetables under the system, which stops prices falling when there is a good harvest.

Countries with small growers tend to get most out of the system. More than three quarters of the money paid to growers for wasted produce went to Greece and France.

The single largest category was Greek peaches, of which more than 650,000 tonnes were deemed surplus and purchased for destruction with European taxpayers' money. The French were paid for 148,000 tonnes of destroyed cauliflowers and 373,000 tonnes of destroyed apples.

(Source: *The Australian*, 19 March 1996)

URINE THERAPY FOR CANCER

At the World Conference on Auto-Urine Therapy held in Goa, western India, during March, a Chinese scientist claimed he had identified a protein—antineoplaston—in urine which can help treat cancer.

Dr Ming Chen Liau, Vice-General



Somerville

Manager of the Long Life Biomedical Co. in Western Hefei, China, presented his research to 600 delegates from 17 nations. In 47 per cent of cases, the protein arrested the tumour. "Yes, urine can cure cancer," he said.

Dr Ming Chen Liau's findings would appear to echo those of US-based Dr Stanislaw Burzynski, who has successfully cured hundreds of people diagnosed with terminal cancer. His treatment: antineoplastons! (Needless to say, the FDA soon put a stop to him!)

Dr Shigeyur Arai, researcher in the Hayashibara Biochemical Laboratories in Okayama, Japan, told delegates that gargling with urine could cure many diseases including cancer, hepatitis B and influenza.

(Source: *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 5 March 1996)

FDA GIVES MSG THE GREEN LIGHT DESPITE DANGERS

The US Food and Drug Administration has deemed the food additive monosodium glutamate (MSG) to be safe, ignoring evidence that has linked it to conditions such as Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease.

The FDA has ruled that food manufacturers have to mention MSG on labels *only* if the contents contain more than three grams of the additive.

The decision has enraged lobby groups who argue that the FDA is ignoring its own findings which suggest that people suffer reactions from MSG at just half the three-grams level.

(Source: *What Doctors Don't Tell You*, vol. 6, no. 11, February 1996)

INDOOR POLLUTION MAY BE WORSE THAN OUTDOORS

Toxic fumes from carpets, paint, furniture and cleaning products can pollute the air inside houses and offices to up to seven times the level outside, according to Mr Steve Brown, a principal research scientist at Australia's CSIRO (Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation) building, construction and engineering division.

Culprits include carpets (especially freshly cleaned carpets); dry-cleaned clothing; particle board and fibreboard walls; solvent-based adhesives, sealants, paints and wood stains used during house construction; deodorisers; vinyl flooring; table surface waxes; insulation; foam couches; and gas heaters, to name a few.

(Source: *The Australian*, 8 May 1996)

BIOMETRIC ID CARDS ARE COMING IN AN IMMIGRATION 'TROJAN HORSE'

America, like many other countries, seems determined to implement a national ID card system. It has tried and failed several times in the recent past using such guises as 'health' or 'crime'. The latest guise is 'illegal aliens'—but this time it is more than just an ID card system!

Enter S. 269, the *Immigration Reform Act* of 1996, the latest attempt by US Congress to mandate a computer-driven, biometrically-verifiable national identification system. If enacted into law, S. 269 would require the most comprehensive registration and tracking of American citizens by the federal government in history.

Some experts have speculated that, once the system envisioned by S. 269 is in place, the scope of the identity card will be expanded to include information of a highly personal nature, such as credit and spending history and medical, educational and social records.

Why would Congress and the Clinton Administration consider such a plan?

Some Americans believe that the USA is in the midst of an illegal immigration crisis. Politicians want to show their constituents that they are taking strong action against illegal immigration. These politicians argue that the best way to control illegal immigration is to give the government the right to approve all employee hiring in America. They argue that by using advanced technology to register, track and store information on every citizen, it will be easy to spot illegal immigrants.

Among other things, the Bill establishes that:

- The federal government create a national database containing information on all Americans and immigrants eligible to work in the USA (S. 269, Sec. 111).

- All Americans may be required to obtain a national identification device, like an ID card (S. 269, Sec. 111(b)).

- Beginning in 1999, all employers must receive authorisation from the national computer database before hiring any new employee. This does not apply just to immigrants. For each new employee, the company would be required to transmit his name and identification number via modem and then wait for the national database to respond with an authorisation code. If the person's name is not in the database, he cannot work (S. 269, Sec. 111).

- All American children must register with the SSA (Social Security Administration) by age sixteen. When they register, they must provide the agency with a "fingerprint or other biometric data". The agency would place the "fingerprint or other biometric data" on the child's birth certificate, hoping to make the birth certificate more fraud-resistant (S. 269, Sec. 116(7)).

- In violation of the Tenth Amendment, the Senate Bill would create federalised rules pertaining to the creation of drivers' licences, and would unconstitutionally mandate that (1) Social Security numbers be attached to the licence; and (2) all drivers' licences "shall contain a fingerprint or other biometric data" (S. 269, Sec. 116(b)).

- The government would have a comprehensive registry of every American name, date of birth, place of birth, mother's maiden name, Social Security number, gender, race, and other information. Personal information that is now scattered in many different places would be consolidated into one database, controlled by a single federal agency.

- Personal information would be accessible to local agencies and anyone who claims to be an employer.

- The government would have to grant approval before a company enters into a private employment contract with a private citizen.

The House Version of the Bill: H.R. 2202

In its current form, H.R. 2202 calls for pilot programs to test the idea of a computer-linked verification system. It calls for new and unprecedented databases and data-sharing and computer link-ups between state and federal agencies, thus expanding the government's ability to monitor private citizens. Like S. 269, it would, for the first time, require private employers to receive approval from a federal computer database before entering into private employment contracts with individuals.

(Source: *Team Infinity*, PO Box 952, Greenbelt, MD 20770, USA; email: ralph@TeamInfinity.com; downloaded via the InterNet from Newsgroup-alt.conspiracy, 7 May 1996)